

William Fairfax to George Washington, January 22, 1757, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM COLONEL WILLIAM FAIRFAX.

BELVOIR. 22d. Janry. 1757

DEAR SIR

This Evening I had the Pleasure to receive your Favor of the 13th. inst. I desir'd only a Sketch and You have kindly sent Me an expressive One of what I desir'd to know. Bryan Fx has partook of several merry Meetings and Dancings in Westmoreland and Essex and it's said addresses Miss T—ville. If He succeeds, his Friends may excuse his quitting the Military. A Life that do's Honour to the Worthy and generally rewarded with one's Country's Esteem and Munificence. Those who unjustly and snarlingly Censure whom They can't imitate or equal are to be overlookt and contemnd.

Our last Advices said Lord Loudoun was gone to N. England. Capt. John Clarke from Salem is now with Us on a Visit, and declares if his Lordship appears affable and treats those People in a kind manner They will assure at least 50,000 wel armd & disciplind and with more Chearfulness if his Lordship would lead Them to Qu—k & Mt—real, rather than cause Them to march the round to Albany as before. This Evg. Colo. Carlyle advised Us, He had an Account of three Regiments being just arrived at N. York. I suppose a good Squadron of Ships conveyd them that are to assist any Operations agreed on. Its expectd the present Parliament will enquire after every Mismanagement in the Ministry; Some say the D. of Newc—Ld. An—&c will be impeacht, insomuch that the most vigorous Measures

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will be attempted towards regaining our lost Honor in the Mediterranean and at Oswego. I have seen your Regiments Cloathing at Mr. Carlyle's and think them well chosen and made:¹ hope You will soon have them; also the expected Pay as Mr. Kirkpatrick was to meet Mr. Treasurer² and the Committee on the 17th. at Wmsburg G. Fx, Mr. Carlyle & I lost our Necessarys sent for, being shipt on board the Friendship Capt. Robt. Lee bound for Patuxent & sayld with Channel Convoy but in August was taken by a Privateer and carried into Bayonne.

I am sensible yr. Self, Officers & Men undergo uncommon Difficultys as well in your provisionary Support as in carrying on the additional Works directed. If as I suppose the Workmen were paid some Consideration for what They did and are doing at Fort Loudoun You may expect likewise the same Justice for what You have and are doing at Fort Cumberland, Wch the Govr. writes Me, Lord Loudoun is desirous by no Means to have dismantled or the Garrison withdrawn. No doubt You cause to be kept regular Accots. of the Soldiers extraordinary Labour and other Incidents. The Revenue of 2s. Per Hhd &c under the Disposal of the Govr. & Council is I believe mostly exhausted, therefore it may be expected the Assembly will pay the Expences on the Governor & Council setting forth the Reasons and Necessity of their Orders to You. As the Matter appears in this Light, You may think proper perhaps to correspond some Times with Mr. Treasurer letting Him know the Occurrences, what Obstructions and Discouragements when You meet any, As He & most of the Committee if not All, are your Friends and undoubtedly will advise and assist your Endeavours especially whilst acting in the lawful Defence of your Country. As to Mr. Commissary Walker I don't yet know whether He is to continue or who are to succeed. Messrs. Carlyle & Ramsay are in Suspence —

Denis Mc.Carty supported by Mr. Thos. Campbell an Officer sent from the No.ward to recruit among Us, comitted several illegal Acts lately at Alexandria, forcing open Doors in the Night time, taking Men out of their Beds and carrying them to their Guard &c Wch.

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Mr. Kirkpatrick then in Town can particularly acquaint You with. I sent by Him Depositions relating the Facts to the Governor.

Mr. Campbell &c went afterwards to Westmoreland where They acted other gross Enormities countenanced by Colo. Ph. Lee. Such Irregularities must obstruct the recruiting Service and cause all Freemen to disesteem the licentious Officers—The Genl. Assembly is prorogued to Feby.—When Mr. Kirkpatrick returns He will inform whether It may then meet or No.

As perhaps You may'nt have Seen th' enclosed relating to the British Ministry, I send it for your Perusal. Please to favor me with an Accot. of Occurrences as may further happen. G. Fx, his Dame & Miss Hannah (Bryan in Westmoreland) heartily joyn in wishing You every Felicity, your Station can admit. You'll also do me the Justice to believe that I am as much as any Person can be

Dear Sir Your Affect. Friend &c W. FAIRFAX.

1 The regimental dress prescribed in general orders of September 17, 1755, was as follows: "Regimentals of good blue Cloath; the Coat to be faced and cuffed with Scarlet, and trimmed with Silver: a Scarlet waistcoat, with Silver Lace; Blue Breeches, and a Silver-laced Hat, if to be had, for Camp or Garrison Duty."

2 John Robinson, Esq., Speaker of the House of Burgesses.